

# The Monthly Advocate.

VOL. II.

MARCH, 1882.

No. 11.

## THE RELATION AND DUTY OF THE PASTOR IN HIS STUDY TO FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BY J. TEAZ.

(A paper read before the Alleghany, Pa., Inter-Seminary Missionary Association January, 1882.)

During the past century, when the Christian Church was awakened from her guilty slumbers by the movings of the missionary spirit within her, there were strange startling voices that fell upon her ears. It was not the din of battle, nor the sad wicrd moanings of the forest, nor the fretful sobbings of the troubled waters on some distant lonely shore; it was something more real, more solemn, more overwhelmingly distressful than all of these; it was a cry that has come down to us, and to-day is heard reverberating from every land beneath the sun. It comes to us wafted upon every breeze, and over every ocean, more than ever tremulously, beseechingly, despairingly!

“Hark, what mean those lamentations  
Rolling sadly through the sky?  
’Tis the cry of heathen nations  
‘Come and help us ere we die.’”

The Church of a century ago responded to those pleading voices, and with that response a new era—the era of modern missionary enterprize dawned upon our world. From that time to the present the spirit of the Church, which is the spirit of the Saviour, has been having its true and normal development.

The Church is *essentially* a *missionary* organization. This is the fundamental principle on which she rests, the object for which she was organized and equipped by Him who is her Divine head and Lord. Instituted in Eden, called out from the nations in the person and family of Abraham, the seeds of truth written, and the promise of Truth Incarnate given to her she received a mission, and a commission adequate, and adapted to the ever developing needs of the world. When the fullness of time came, however, and the Saviour’s work was complete, this commission was renewed on a deeper and broader basis. The apostles were authorized and enjoined to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Here you will notice, the command is not to *educate*, or train human souls for a better world. Christ himself came to seek and to save lost sinners, and the mission of the Church is primarily and fundamentally to *seek* and to *save* sinners. The work of building up the saints and fitting them for heaven, however important in itself, is the secondary and not the primary consideration. The gold must be searched for in the bowels of the earth before it can be refined and made serviceable in useful or decorative art; the precious jewel must be discovered,